

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR RESTRUCTURING MEETINGS CONTINUE

REF: MANILA 9248

BEGIN SUMMARY: TOP LABOR LEADERS NOW MEETING WEEKLY IN EFFORT HAMMER OUT ACCEPTABLE RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM. SECRETARY OPLE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ADVISORY ROLE. LABOR IS UNDER GUN TO HAVE AT LEAST BROAD OUTLINES OF UNIFICATION PROGRAM READY BY NOVEMBER 1 IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF NEW LABOR CODE. END SUMMARY

1. WITH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE STILL ACTING AS FOCAL POINT, DOZEN OR SO OF TOP LABOR LEADERS NOW MEETING WEEKLY IN EFFORT HAMMER OUT ACCEPTABLE RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM. ALU PRESIDENT DEMOCRITO MENDOZA INFORMED LABATT THAT MOST RECENT MEETING SEPTEMBER 4 DEVOTED TO DRAFTING GUIDELINES ON UNION REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO PAVE WAY FOR SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LABOR CODE. MAIN THRUST OF THESE PARTICULAR GUIDELINES WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY IS TO PUT STOP TO UNION RAIDING.

2. DESPITE OPLE'S EARLIER WARNING AGAINST "TRADE UNION WAR" (READ UNION RAIDING AND JURISDICTIONAL FIGHTS--SEE REFERENCE), NUMBER OF UNIONS HAVE BEEN RATHER AGGRESSIVELY JOKCEYING FOR POSITION IN ANTICIPATION EARLY IMPLEMENTATION
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TION OF ONE UNION/ONE INDUSTRY PATTERS. LABOR SECRETARY

TOLD TRADE UNION LEADERS SEPTEMBER 4 THAT "FOR PEACE AND ORDER OF COUNTRY", HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO GET RE-STRUCTURING OF LABOR MOVEMENT DONE.

COMMENT: APPARENTLY WITH FULL ACQUIESCENCE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP, OPLE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ARE CONTINUING PLAY IMPORTANT ADVISORY ROLE IN PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS FOR LABOR UNIFICATION. WITH NOVEMBER 1 IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF LABOR CODE (WHICH INCLUDES RESTRUCTURING) RAPIDLY APPROACHING, LABOR IS UNDER GUN TO AT LEAST HAVE BROAD OUTLINES OF UNIFICATION PROGRAM READY BY THEN.
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